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DEPARTMENT FOR SA/INS, INL
JUSTICE FOR OIA, AFMLS, AND NDDS
TREASURY FOR FINCEN
DEA FOR OILS AND OFFICE OF DIVERSION CONTROL

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TAGS: [SNAR](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: 2004 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY
REPORT (INCSR) FOR SRI LANKA

REF: SECSTATE 248987

11. Please find attached Mission's 2004 International
Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR). Responses are
keyed to questions in Reftel.

Para 20

1I. Summary:

Sri Lanka has a relatively small-scale drug problem. The Government of Sri Lanka (GSL) remains committed to targeting drug traffickers and implementing nation-wide demand reduction programs. In 2004, the U.S. government strengthened its relationship with Sri Lanka on counternarcotics issues by offering training and seminars for the Sri Lanka Police. A comparatively relaxed security environment as a result of the 2002 ceasefire agreement between the GSL and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has opened a new overland drug trafficking route which LTTE officials are taking active measures to police and monitor. Although Sri Lanka has signed the 1988 UN Drug Convention, Parliament had not enacted implementing legislation for the convention as of the end of 2004.

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Part II. Status of country:

Sri Lanka is not a significant producer of narcotics or precursor chemicals. GSL officials continue to raise internal awareness of and vigilance against efforts by drug traffickers attempting to use Sri Lanka as a transit point for illicit drug smuggling. Domestically, officials are addressing a modest drug problem, consisting of heroin, cannabis, and increasingly, ecstasy.

Part III. Country action against drugs in 2004:

Para 23.1

Policy Initiatives: In 2004, Sri Lanka made progress in further implementing its counternarcotics strategy, developed in 1994. The lead agency for counternarcotics efforts, the Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB), is headquartered in the capital city of Colombo. The new government, elected in April 2004, has not initiated to date any policy changes with respect to counternarcotics activities. The GSL remains committed to on-going efforts to curb illicit drug use and trafficking.

Para 23.2

Accomplishments:

The PNB and Excise Department worked closely to target cannabis producers and dealers, resulting in several successful arrests. The PNB warmly welcomed and was an active partner in taking full advantage of U.S.-sponsored training for criminal investigative techniques and management practices.

Sri Lanka continued to work with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and the United Nations Drug Control Program (UNDCP) on regional narcotics issues. SAARC countries met in Maldives in early 2004 and agreed to establish an interactive website for the SAARC Drug Offense Monitoring Desk, located in Colombo, for all countries to input, share, and review regional narcotics statistics. GSL officials maintain continuous contact with counterparts in India and Pakistan, origin countries for the majority of drugs in Sri Lanka.

Para 23.3

Law enforcement efforts:

The PNB continued close inter-agency cooperation with the Customs Service, the Department of Excise and the Sri Lankan Police to curtail the illicit drug supply lines and local drug dealers and users. As a result of these efforts, GSL officials arrested nearly 2674 heroin dealers and drug dealers and more than 2135 cannabis dealers during the first six months of this year. (Note: Statistics for July-

December 2004 will be available in early 2005. Post will provide update figures at that time.) The largest heroin haul for the year, to date, has been 17 kilograms, valued locally at around \$390,000. Law enforcement agencies throughout 2004 made a number of other small-scale seizures of heroin and other drugs. In addition, in response to the slowly increasing ecstasy usage in upscale venues in Colombo, the PNB made the first two ever ecstasy-related drug arrests in 2004.

Apart from its Colombo headquarters, the PNB has one sub-unit at the Bandaranaike International Airport near Colombo, complete with operational personnel and a team of narcotics-detecting dogs. Greater vigilance by PNB officers assigned to the airport sub-station led to increased detections and consistent arrests of alleged drug smugglers.

During the year, the PNB began the process of establishing additional sub-stations. The next two substations, at the international port in Colombo and the northwest coastal town of Mannar, will be operational shortly. Future sub-stations will also be located in cannabis-growing regions.

Para 23.4

Corruption: A government commission, established to investigate bribery and corruption charges against public officials, temporarily resumed operations in 2004. In May 2004, the Judicial Services Commission suspended a Colombo high court judge for granting bail to alleged drug traffickers. Police arrested a leading alleged drug kingpin in connection with the November 2004 murder of a widely respected judge. At the time of this alleged dealer's arrest and questioning, subsequent information revealed that numerous police officers allegedly helped facilitate this individual's illegal activities. In response, the Inspector General of Police, the most senior ranking police official, ordered a complete investigation into any involvement by police officers. The investigation was on-going at year's end.

Para 23.5

Agreements and treaties (with U.S. and others): Sri Lanka has signed the 1988 UN Drug Convention and the 1990 SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Implementing legislation for both conventions had not reached Parliament by year's end. The Attorney General's office has reviewed both pieces of legislation and anticipates submitting it to Parliament in early 2005.

Sri Lanka is also a party to the 1961 UN Single Convention, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Sri Lanka has signed, but has not yet ratified, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. An extradition treaty is in force between the U.S. and Sri Lanka.

Para 23.6

Cultivation/production (where applicable): Small quantities of cannabis are cultivated and used locally. There is little indication that this illicit drug is exported. The majority of the production occurs in the southeast jungles of Sri Lanka. PNB and Excise Department officials work together to locate and eradicate cannabis crops.

Para 23.7

Drug flow/transit:

Some of the heroin entering Sri Lanka is solely for transshipment purposes. With the opening of the northwestern coastal waters in the advent of the ceasefire between the GSL and the LTTE, narcotics traffickers have taken advantage of the short distance across the Palk Strait to transit drugs from India to Sri Lanka. According to police officials drugs are mainly transported across the strait and then overland to the south. The PNB is attempting to control the area better with the upcoming opening of a sub-station in this region. With no coast guard however, Sri Lanka's coast remains highly vulnerable to transshipment of heroin from India.

Police officials state that the international airport is the second major entry point for the transshipment of illegal narcotics through Sri Lanka.

There is no evidence to date that synthetic drugs are manufactured in Sri Lanka. Police note that the ecstasy found in Colombo social venues is likely trafficked from Thailand.

Para 23.8

Domestic programs (demand reduction): The National Dangerous Drugs Control Board (NDDCB) began establishing task forces in each regional province to focus on the issue of drug awareness and rehabilitation at the community level. Each task force works with the existing municipal structure, bringing together officials from the police, prisons, social

services, health, education and NGO sectors. For the first time in 2004, NDDCB officials visited the war-affected north and east provinces to assess the local situation and investigate the possibility of establishing treatment centers in those regions.

The GSL continued its support, including financial, of local NGOs conducting demand reduction and drug awareness campaigns. The Sri Lanka Anti Narcotics Association in collaboration with PNB and the Colombo City Traffic Police organized a "Run Against Drug Abuse" in June 2004. The Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Program, a regional organization, pledged its assistance to the government and non-government agencies in their efforts to combat illicit drugs.

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Part IV. U.S. Policy Initiatives and Programs:

Para 24.1

U.S. Policy Initiatives: The USG remained committed to helping GSL officials develop increased capacity and cooperation for counternarcotics issues. The USG also continued its support of the regional Colombo Plan Drug Advisory Program, which conducts regional and country-specific training seminars, fostering communication and cooperation throughout Asia.

Para 24.2

Bilateral cooperation (accomplishments): In 2004, the USG began implementing, primarily with the PNB, a law enforcement development program. Over 200 officers throughout the police force participated in training seminars. Pursuant to bilateral letters of agreement between the USG and the GSL, the Sri Lanka police are fulfilling their obligations. USG-trained Sri Lanka police are replicating the seminars and scheduling training for colleagues at the training academies and stations throughout the island. Organized by the Colombo Plan, regional U.S. government officials conducted narcotics officer training for their local counterparts.

Para 24.3

Road Ahead: The U.S. government intends to maintain its commitment to aiding the Sri Lanka police to transition from a paramilitary force to a community-focused one. This will be accomplished with additional assistance for training and continued dialogue between U.S. counternarcotics related agencies and their Sri Lankan counterparts. The U.S. expects to continue its support of the Colombo Plan.

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